

I'm writing to express my concern that you are moving too quickly to decide on changes in media ownership regulations.

I worry that allowing media companies to own larger and larger shares of media markets will only reduce the amount of information that I have access to. Furthermore, I simply don't trust the corporations that own the media to tell me what I need to know if it might potentially hurt their bottom line--the only way I will feel confident that I am getting the true facts about a situation, particularly in business and politics, is to know that several newspapers/radios/networks--OWNED BY DIFFERENT COMPANIES--are competing for my business.

The media is different from any other industry. It's what keeps the public informed. Let's keep the public informed by keeping the diversity in the media.

Chairman Powell said that the FCC is going about these changes based on empirical evidence. Well then, have you studied the likely effect these kinds changes will have on local community's news coverage? Have you looked into the effects that radio consolidation has had as an example of likely results of further deregulation?

Or have you looked into whether newspapers owned by the same companies present similar viewpoints more frequently than independent papers?

And what about local businesses access to advertising? Have you considered the fact that consolidation might put advertising rates out of the reach of local, independently-owned business?

In Chairman Powell's letter to Congress explaining why the FCC is planning to move ahead with the June meeting despite several Congresspeople's requests for delays, he stated the FCC has already allowed time for public comment. I don't know what kind of public comment you sought, but until Commissioner Copp started making an effort to publicize these changes, I'd never heard of them. These changes have the potential to result in disastrous reductions in my access to information. It warrants further analysis.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Moore